

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 086531-0130

In re patent application of

Mikihide NAKAMURA et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: October 17, 2001

For: REACTOR CORE AND METHOD FOR OPERATING NUCLEAR REACTOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

--13. (Amended) A method for operating a nuclear reactor, as claimed in claim 11, wherein said reactor core is operated with said control rods inserted into said reactor core by 30% or greater of axial length of said control rods.--

Please add new Claim 14 as follows:

--14. (New) A method for operating a nuclear reactor, as claimed in claim 12, wherein said reactor core is operated with said control rods inserted into said reactor core by 30% or greater of axial length of said control rods.—